

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ERDA-05

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R 221637Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2339

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GW, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: PRESS ATTENTION TO ALLEGED US NUCLEAR
PLANNING

REF: STATE 192436

1. AS DIRECTED BY REFTTEL, THE EMBASSY COORDINATED WITH THE FMOD ON A POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO THEIR 1970 STATEMENT CONCERNING THE STERN MAGAZINE ARTICLE "ATOM BOMBS ON KIEL". AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPED, THE EMBASSY DID NOT NEED TO REFER TO THE STATEMENT, BUT FMOD DID PASS A COPY OF IT TO ZDF UPON REQUEST.

2. DURING THE SCHEDULED BROADCAST OF THE DAS MAGAZIN SHOW ON AUG. 20, THE PRODUCER READ A STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED BY STERN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LEGAL SUIT. THE STATEMENT DID NOT INCLUDE MENTION OF THE "ATOM BOMBS" ARTICLE. INSTEAD, IT REFERRED TO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE DAS MAGAZIN PROGRAM OF JULY 9, 1975 WHICH CHARGED THAT STERN HAD BEEN A DUPE OF SOVIET DISINFORMATION ACTIVITIES.

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3. THE STERN STATEMENT CONSISTED OF A SIX POINT REBUTTAL KEYED TO THE OTHER STORIES MENTIONED ON THE TV SHOW AND PUBLISHED BY THE MAGAZINE BETWEEN 1967 AND 1971. AFTER READING THE STATEMENT, THE ZDF SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE STATION ABSTAINED FROM MAKING FURTHER EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

4. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FMOD OFFICIALS AND ZDF REPORTER MONENKMEYER -- BOTH PRIOR TO AND AFTER THE READING OF THE RETRACTION STATEMENT -- WE CONCLUDE THAT REVIVAL OF THE "ATOM BOMBS" ARTICLE IS UNLIKELY. STERN POSSIBLY MIGHT FOLLOW UP WITH ANOTHER STORY IN A FUTURE EDITION, BUT THE ODDS ON THIS APPEAR TO US TO BE VERY LONG. END COMMENT.

5. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT GUIDANCE IN THIS MATTER.
CASH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PFOR, GE, US
To: STATE
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